

# PEA Paragraph Model and Exemplars

## Explanation

The PEA paragraph is a type of paragraph which is used to explain a writer's ideas that are supported by evidence from a text (literature) or research. It is an effective organizational structure that helps the reader understand the writer's ideas and arguments. This will be relied on throughout high school and is the foundation of writing a strong essay.

## Definitions

- **PEA:** Point, Evidence, Analysis. PEA is the name of specific paragraph structure.
- **Point:** The point being made within a paragraph. This is also known as a topic sentence.
- **Evidence:** Evidence from the text, which is organized into a sentence, used to support the point.
- **Analysis:** The writer's own words, organized into one or more sentences, which are used to explain how the evidence supports the point.
- **Conclusion or Link:** The final sentence in a PEA paragraph. This sentence revisits the main idea of the paragraph.

## Organization

Each sentence that is written in a PEA paragraph can be categorized as a "P" (point), "E" (evidence), or "A" (analysis) sentence. Let's look at a sample PEA paragraph:

Green Day is my favorite band because they created a new sound that made it possible for new punk bands to appear, and they write angry, defiant lyrics that get at the soul of the individual. After releasing the album "Dookie," the band brought the blaring guitar sound and angry drum beats of punk bands from the 1970s to an entirely new audience, including bands like Blink 182, Sum 41, Avril Lavigne, and Paramore. Because so many bands copy the pop-punk sound of Green Day, it ensures that punk rock will never die. In fact, without the new pop-punk sound that Green Day invented, none of these other bands would even exist. Their lyrics, though, are what really make Green Day stand out; the song "American Idiot" says, "Don't wanna be an American idiot. Don't want a nation controlled by the media." Lyrics like these inspire people to think differently about themselves and their world. They make people want to push beyond the obvious information being spoon-fed to them. When these thoughtful lyrics are combined with the punk rock sounds, there is little reason to doubt why Green Day is my favorite band of all-time.

**WE DO:** If we label these sentences as P, E, A, C/L, then we have an 8-sentence paragraph:

1. Point
2. Evidence #1
3. Analysis of sentence #2
4. Analysis of sentence #2
5. Evidence #2
6. Analysis of sentence #5
7. Analysis of sentence #5
8. Conclusion/Link

**YOU DO: Now it's your turn!**

Directions: Practice labelling each sentence as P, E, A or C/L in the following two paragraphs.

## Tim O'Brien, the Courageous War Veteran

When thinking about courageous acts, many people come to mind. Tim O'Brien, the author of "Ambush" and many other works, writes pieces that make readers think about courage. For example, in "Ambush," Tim O'Brien writes "I want to tell her exactly what happened, or what I remember happening, and then I want to say to her that as a little girl she was absolutely right. This is why I keep writing war stories" (p 60). When reading this, it demonstrates courage because Tim O'Brien wants to share his combat experiences to educate others about the realities of war. Front line soldiers experience a different reality due to lack of understanding of the effects of war. Sharing experiences takes an act of courage because the individual is reliving a difficult time in their life.

Not only is courage, or being courageous sharing vivid experiences with others, courage is also recognizing your own struggles regarding the impact of war. Tim O'Brien also writes, "Even now I haven't finished sorting it out. Sometimes I forgive myself, other times I don't" (p. 65). This quote directly relates to the need to self-reflect on how war affects individuals differently. In addition, recognizing your own struggles is important to begin the healing process and move on with life. Courage is not only the heroic actions in combat, but is looking at and dealing with the effects those experiences have on individuals long after the war has ended.

**SO WHAT?**

Answer the following questions below. Use complete sentences and proper PUGS.

1. Overall, what do you notice about PEA paragraphs?
2. What do you notice about the Point sentence?
3. What do you notice about the Evidence sentences?
4. What do you notice about Analysis sentences?
5. What do you notice about the Conclusion/Link sentences?
6. What will it be important for you to remember to do when you write a PEA paragraph?

Evaluating Exemplars

(next two slides; handout)

Directions:

1. Correct PUGS mistakes. Use the editing marks on page 130 of your planner.
2. Label each sentence P, E, A, or C/L. (You might not use all labels.)
3. Number the sentences to assess paragraph length.
4. Highlight or underline strong word choice and voice (figurative language).
5. Circle all anchor words (conjunctions or words that transition or signify analysis).

Why do this?

You will practice doing evaluating paragraphs as a class and then with a partner, so that you can, finally, do it on your own on the PEA paragraph you wrote about what it means to be a freshman Lakewood tiger.

### Exemplar #1

To be a Lakewood Tiger means to metaphorically grow a thick coat of fur so I can show warmth and kindness to others. I will need sharp teeth and claws in case I have to defend my ideas and values. But, I will also need a long tail to give me balance and to brush small things off my back. It will be important to have sharp eyesight to focus on my goals and a keen sense of smell to sniff out opportunities. Last but not least, I need speed and efficiency to help me attack my busy schedule successfully. If I can put on these traits I might actually survive this jungle.



## Exemplar #2

Getting the opportunity to be a lakewood tiger is astounding! It has so many meanings. It means being a part of not only a community but a family. It's not anything compared to previous schools. In my short period of time being a freshman Lakewood tiger I feel so welcomed and supported at LHS. It's an immense change and/or step in my life. Highschool is a very important step in life. It's where we as teens think about our futures, and it is such an honor to be able to figure out my future as a Lakewood tiger. The support I have really helps. To get the chance to learn these amazing, breathtaking things is unimaginable. Being a Lakewood tiger means really considering your future but knowing you aren't alone. It means having support. I believe everyone needs not only good and supportive friends but supportive teachers and staff, luckily Lakewood Highschool is crawling with those. So in my time here I plan to shine like a star a long with a bright future at Lakewood Highschool.